

Resolution authorizing a discount program for residential low income water and sewer customers in the County

**(Sanitary Engineer)**

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners intends to establish a discount program for low income water and sewer customers served by the Department of Sanitary Engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, the County provides water service to 3,824 customers and sewer service to 5,677 customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the County purchases water from the City of Columbus to supply 3,277 of those residential customers and produces water for 305 residential customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the County provides sanitary sewer services for 3,716 residential customers connected to the City of Columbus system, and for 1,961 other residential customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the city of Columbus provides a "Low Income Discount for Commodity Charges" program for residential customers who are eligible for food stamp benefits, Ohio Medicaid, Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), Ohio Works First, Social Security Disability, public housing benefits, or other state or federal low income assistance program acceptable to the Director of the city Public Utility Department; and

**WHEREAS**, all low income residential customers whose applications are approved and whose water and sewer service is supplied by the city of Columbus may receive a twenty (20) percent discount on the commodity portion of their bill; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. The Director of the Department of the Sanitary Engineering is authorized to implement a program to provide low income residential customers a discount on water and sewer commodity charges consistent with the program established by the city of Columbus Ordinance 1132-2008, and as it may be amended in the future, and to create and implement a similar discount for other low income

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residential customers whose water and/or sewer service is supplied by Franklin County.

2. The implementation of the Low Income Discount for commodity charge program is hereby established as described below:
  - A. "Low Income Residential Customer" is defined as a residential customer of the County who is eligible for food stamp benefits, Ohio Medicaid, Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Home Energy Assistance (HEAP). Ohio Works First, social security disability, public housing benefits, or any other state or federal low income assistance program acceptable to the Director of the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities and the Director of the County Department of Sanitary Engineering
  - B. All low income residential customers may receive a twenty (20) percent discount on the commodity portions of their water and sewer bill. This discount will be available to the low income residential customer upon application to and approval of the Director of the County Sanitary Engineering Department.
  - C. The Director of the Department of Sanitary Engineering may adopt regulations necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this section. Regulations promulgated, pursuant to this chapter by the Director shall be presented at a General Session meeting of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, with copies of the regulations being available for public review at the Sanitary Engineer's office and other locations which may be designated by the Director.
  - D. Master metered properties are eligible to receive a twenty (20) percent discount on the commodity portion of their water and sewer bills if the property owner proves to the satisfaction of the Director that eighty (80) percent or more of the rental units are participants in qualifying programs outlined in Paragraph A above. If the eighty (80) percent threshold is met, the entire building or complex will be eligible to receive the twenty (20) percent commodity rate discount. The discount shall be applied to the master meter bill. Property owners must transmit the full benefit of the discount to residents

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through the resident's utility billing from the property owner or agent.

- E. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the low income discount program as described in Sections 1105.21 and 1147.19 of Columbus City Code and establish a concurrent program for other low income water and sewer residential customers of the County.
- F. The Director of the Department of Sanitary Engineering shall provide to the City Department of Public Utilities, if required, a detailed listing of all qualifying customers supplied for serviced by the city and their commodity usage prior to application of the discount to the mastered meter account billing. The discount shall apply only to the measured commodity usage of qualifying customers.
- G. The County Administrator is authorized to execute any further actions required to institute this program.

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